

Remarks

Status of the Claims

Claims 2, 13, 22, 27 and 28 have previously been canceled. Claims 21, and 23-25 are canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 8, 17 and 26 have been amended. New claims 29-31 have been added. Claims 1, 3-12, 14-20, 26 and 29-31 are in the case.

Claims 7 and 9-12 are allowed. Claims 17-20 and 26 would be allowable if re-written in independent form. The amendment to claims 17 and 26 was done to remove the dependency to rejected claims and to place the claims in condition for allowance.

New claims 29-31 are supported in the Specification at least at paragraphs 59, 60 and 64 and introduce no new matter into the application.

Rejections Under 35 USC § 102

The Action rejects claims 1, 3-5, 21 and 23-25 under 102(a) as being anticipated by WO 2004/047774. Applicant traverses that the reference is available as prior art under §102(a), and that the reference anticipates any of the pending claims. Furthermore, in light of the current amendments, which are made to progress the case to allowance, the examiner's objections are completely overcome.

As claim 1 has now been amended to include a chemical cross-linker in the intimate mixture, claims 1 and dependent claims 3-5 are now even more clearly distinguished from the disclosure of WO 2004/047774, as Applicant finds no disclosure or suggestion of a film, fiber or membrane containing such chemical cross-linkers in a keratin material.

Claims 21 and 23-25 have been canceled.

The current amendment thus completely addresses the Examiner's concerns regarding this prior art. Applicant requests that all rejections over WO2004/047774 be withdrawn.

The Action also rejects claims 1, 3-5, 8, 14-16, 21 and 23-25 under 102(a) as anticipated by Katoh. Applicant traverses that the reference is available as prior art under §102(a), and that the reference anticipates any of the pending claims. Furthermore, in light of the current amendments, which are made to progress the case to allowance, the examiner's objections are completely overcome.

As claims 1 and 8 have now been amended to include a chemical cross-linker in the intimate mixture, claims 1 and dependent claims 3-5 as well as claim 8 and dependent claims 14-

16 are now even more clearly distinguished from the disclosure of Katoh, as Applicant finds no disclosure or suggestion of a film, fiber or membrane containing such chemical cross-linkers in a keratin material.

Claims 21 And 23-25 have been canceled.

The current amendment thus completely addresses the Examiner's concerns regarding this prior art. Applicant requests that all rejections over Katoh be withdrawn.

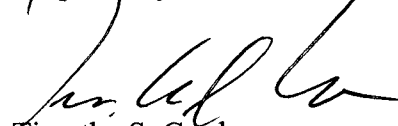
Applicant submits that none of the cited art anticipates or suggests the claimed inventions and requests that all prior art rejections be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that all the Examiner's concerns have been completely addressed and that the claims are now in condition for immediate allowance. An early indication to that effect is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions or suggestions that would expedite allowance and issuance of the present application, a telephone call to the undersigned representative would be welcome.

Respectfully submitted,



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